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Message Text

SECRET

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53
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66650
DRAFTED BY: EUR:RFHOPPER
APPROVED BY: EUR:JDRENDAHL
S/S-O: PP SARROS
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R 201808Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 164874

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FM NATO AUG 17
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 3858

EXDIS

SALT

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: SALT: ALSOP COLUMN AND DOD PRESS STATEMENT ABOUT SOVIET MIRV TESTING

SECSTATE PLEASE PASS SECDEF

REF: (A) SECDEF (OASD: PA) 3447, DTG 152317Z AUGUST 73,
(B) USNATO 1337, (C) USNATO 2329

1. REF A INDICATES ALSOP COLUMN AUGUST 15 STATED THAT
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USSR HAS UNDERWAY INTENSIVE PROGRAM ON ADVANCED MIRV

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TECHNOLOGY. ALSO ACCORDING REF A, ASD/PA COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE UNDERWAY A VERY INTENSIVE TESTING PROGRAM ON THEIR ADVANCED MIRV TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING FLIGHT TESTS, THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE CONDUCTED PREVIOUS TESTS, AND THAT U.S. HAS BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF SOVIET MIRV-RELATED TESTS FOR SOME MONTHS.

2. IN SALT CONSULTATIONS, WE HAVE TOLD THE NATO ALLIES THAT VERIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT IN A MIRV-LIMITATION AGREEMENT AND THAT U.S. ABILITY TO VERIFY SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY ON DETECTION OF TESTING (PRIOR TO ATTAINMENT OF A SOVIET MIRV CAPABILITY). WE MIGHZ THEREFORE ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REPORTED ALSOP STORY AND THE ASD COMMENTS ONCE THESE APPEAR OR ARE ALLUDED TO IN EUROPE. QUESTIONS MIGHT INCLUDE WHETHER U.S. CAN NOW PURSUE A MIRV-LIMITATION AGREEMENT COVERING LAND-BASED ICBMS.

3. REQUEST CABLED TEXT OF AUGUST 15 ALSOP COLUMN, TOGETHER WITH CLASSIFIED OR UNCLASSIFIED GUIDANCE ON IT AND ASD/ISA COMMENTS FOR OUR USE WITH THE ALLIES AS APPROPRIATE. AS TO POSSIBLE PRESS QUERIES, WOULD WASHINGTON PREFER THAT WE REFER QUESTIONS TO DOD?
RUMSFELD

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ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MIRV, MISSILE WARHEADS, NUCLEAR TESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE164874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:RFHOPPER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750011-0520
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730826/aaaaasyi.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 NATO BRUSSELS 1337, 73 NATO BRUSSELS 2329
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALT: ALSOP COLUMN AND DOD PRESS STATEMENT ABOUT SOVIET MIRV TESTING
TAGS: PARM, NATO, (ALSOP)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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